

Community Dialog with Commissioner Sam Wercinski and the Department of Real Estate

Since my arrival as Commissioner in January, the Arizona Department of Real Estate has advanced several exciting programs by partnering with the public and industry. Our focus on promoting mutual respect and creating good public policy through my "Three Entities Principle" has created a new path for greater success. The Public, The Industry and The Department work today in cooperation and collaboration to raise the level of professionalism among practitioners in Arizona's largest industry – Real Estate. Open dialog continues to lead to new solutions and opportunities that benefit all Three Entities. One such example is The Department's ongoing Community Outreach and Education (COE) program that we launched on March 19, 2007 in Yavapai County.

Since Yavapai, we have conducted additional workshops and have scheduled dates and locations in all of Arizona's Fifteen Counties. Our current workshops cover proper subdividing and assistance with real estate licensing. We are excited that other state agencies also continue to join us. The Registrar of Contractors, Water Resources, Environmental Quality and Weights and Measures have given additional depth and value to the public and industry with their contributions. This "team approach" between various state agencies spotlights an expanded effort that better serves Arizona.

During our COEs, we also meet with community and industry leaders. Our visits have been extremely positive and productive and have resulted in practical solutions to local challenges. To quote one community leader, "It has been a breath of fresh air to see the Department's commitment to providing exceptional customer service to all." Relationships are being strengthened and that will lead to more advances in services for the industry and protection of the Arizona consumer.

I'm very proud that your ADRE Staff took the lead in developing the Community Outreach and Education Program and I want to thank our public and industry partners for helping us make it a continuing success.

Another initiative we just began is our summer workgroups: Statutes Review, Technology Task Force, Public Report Review and Lifetime License. These workgroups will provide a final report on August 10, 2007 with suggestions on how ADRE can better serve Arizona with ideas for new tools needed to accomplish this. One of the guiding principles is to reduce unnecessary regulation on good practitioners and shift those resources to focus proactively on practitioners harming The Public. We were amazed when over 200 qualified professionals offered to serve on these groups and I personally thank each of them.

Finally, I want to share with you a new effort being crafted to create more dialog with communities in the form of Town Halls. These "Community Conversations" will take place in Northern, Central and Southern Arizona. I'm a proponent of open dialog and our goal is to provide more information to The Public and provide the opportunity for individuals to personally ask questions or give comments to the ADRE Staff and me. We are looking forward to hearing from community members!

I encourage you to sign up for our Late Breaking News Bulletins or stay updated of initiatives and advancements at our website, www.AZRE.gov. We value and seek your input and comments. Working together, all Three Entities: The Public, The Industry and The Department, will have greater success and that means Arizona wins "bigger."

Respectfully Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sam", enclosed within a large, hand-drawn oval.

Sam Wercinski, Commissioner